

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 18285 271222Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 L-01 NSCE-00 INR-05
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 HA-02 TRSE-00 /031 W
-----052533 272050Z /41

R 271046Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6833
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18285

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: SGDS-1
TAGS: EAID JA TH VM
SUBJECT: JAPANESE ASSISTANCE TO VIET NAM

REF:A) BANGKOK 17854 B) BANGKOK 18137 C) BANGKOK 18164

1. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS INFORMED US THAT DURING JUNE 17 MEETING WITH SONODA, ASEAN FONMINS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO VIET NAM, STRESSING THAT IT SHOULD NOT STRENGTHEN VIET NAM'S "MILITARY CAPABILITY". SONODA REITERATED JAPANESE POSITION THAT GOJ ACCORDED FAR MORE IMPORTANCE TO ITS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TIES WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES, AND ANY VIET NAM PROGRAM WOULD NOT CHANGE THAT.

2. BOTH THAI MFA OFFICES AND JAPANESE EMBASSY INDICATE THAT FON MIN UPPADIT, IN BILATERAL DISCUSSION, PROPOSED TO SONODA THAT JAPAN PROCURE FROM THAI SOURCES AT LEAST SOME OF THE MATERIALS TO BE PROVIDED VIET NAM THROUGH JAPANESE ASSISTANCE. MFA OFFICERS INDICATE THAT SONODA'S REPLY WAS NON-COMMITAL BUT NOT NEGATIVE. JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS TOLD US THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY GOJ WILL AGREE TO AT LEAST LIMITED PROCUREMENT IN THAILAND OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ITEMS FOR
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VIET NAM. ACCORDING JAPANESE EMBOFF, GIVEN THE MASSIVE THAI TRADE IMBALANCE WITH JAPAN, GOJ IS DESPERATE FOR ANY EXPEDIENT TO INCREASE THAI EXPORTS.
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
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